

HIT YOUR DEADLINES WITH THIS KEY FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE

Completing the FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is your first step in financial aid. Some aid is offered on a first come, first-served basis, so the earlier you complete the FAFSA, the better. In addition, certain scholarships and private grants are also awarded based on FAFSA information, so it can be a good idea to fill out the FAFSA, even if you don't think you'll qualify based on your parents' incomes.



SEPTEMBER

Create an FSA ID, which is your username for certain US Department of Education sites, at studentaid.gov/FSA-ID.

Prepare for the FAFSA® (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by gathering financial and tax information as well as Social Security and driver's license or government ID numbers.

Mark the calendar with the financial aid deadlines for each school you are applying to and sign up for any financial aid workshop your school offers

Research and apply for scholarships. Check with your high school counselor for suggestions and information about local options.



DECEMBER

Accept your early decision financial aid package, if applicable.

Make sure the FAFSA is sent to all schools you're applying to. Applying to more than 10 schools? Once the FAFSA has been processed, you can continue to replace and add schools.



MARCH

Compare financial aid offers from your potential schools with the Award Letter Comparison Tool.

Have your financial circumstances changed? Send a letter with new information to appeal your financial aid package.



JUNE 30

Last day to apply for the FAFSA for those already in college and seeking financial aid for the year you've just completed.



OCTOBER 1

The FAFSA and CSS Profile® become available. on October 1. Complete these early, as some schools offer financial aid on a first-come, first-serve basis.



NOVEMBER

It's National Scholarship Month!

Visit DiscoverStudentLoans.com/Scholarship to search over 3 million scholarships.

Once you submit your FAFSA, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). Review the SAR and make any corrections to your FAFSA, if needed.



JANUARY

Continue applying for scholarships. Talk with your high school counselor and teachers and see if they know of any local or state scholarships that might be a fit.



MAY 1

It's National Decision Day! Notify the school you plan to attend and deposit no later than today.